



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/643,055

08/18/2003

Thomas K. Reusche

14809US02

3111

23446

7590

09/29/2005

MCANDREWS HELD & MALLOY, LTD
500 WEST MADISON STREET
SUITE 3400
CHICAGO, IL 60661

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TRINH T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3644

DATE MAILED: 09/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/643,055	Applicant(s) REUSCHE ET AL.	
	Examiner Trinh T. Nguyen	Art Unit 3644	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE 9/16/05.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-57 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 13,26 and 35-57 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12,14-25,27-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination under 37 CFR 1.114 After Final Rejection

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/16/05 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14-18, 20, 21, 23, 25, 27-30, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kajisono (US 5,336,399).

For claim 1, Kajisono discloses a water agitation system configured to be positioned within a water retention structure configured to receive and retain water, said system comprising:

a main body positionable within a water retention area of the water retention structure, said main body comprising a base (10) removably interconnected to a cover (16), and an inner compartment defined between said base and cover; and

Art Unit: 3644

an agitator (30, 31, 32) operatively connected to a motor (40) housed within said main body, said agitator connected to a distal end of a drive shaft (30) that extends outwardly from said main body, said agitator comprising at least one agitation member outwardly extending from a lateral surface of said distal end of said drive shaft (note that in lines 40-50 of col. 4, Kajisono discloses impellers/agitation members outwardly extending from a lateral surface of the distal end of the drive shaft and the motor configured to rotate the agitation member in order to stir water, see Figure 7 attached at the end of this Office Action for further explanation), said motor configured to rotate said agitator in order to impart motion to water retained within the water retention structure, said motor being positioned within said inner compartment.

For claims 2 and 15 and 28, Kajisono discloses said water retention structure is a basin of a bird bath (note that Kajisono's water agitation system is capable of being used in a bird bath (see lines 63-68 of col. 2 and lines 62-68 col. 6)).

For claims 3 and 16 and 29, Kajisono discloses said water retention structure is a livestock water trough (note that Kajisono's water agitation system is capable of being used in a livestock water trough (see lines 63-68 of col. 2 and lines 62-68 col. 6)).

For claims 4 and 17 and 30, Kajisono discloses said water retention structure is one of a swimming pool, water tower, and pond see lines 63-68 of col. 2 and lines 62-68 col. 6).

For claims 5 and 18, Kajisono discloses said cover is dome shaped (see Figure 3).

Art Unit: 3644

For claims 7 and 20, Kajisono discloses a support member (17) configured to support said main body above a bottom surface of the water retention structure.

For claims 8 and 21, Kajisono discloses the support member comprises a plurality of legs (17) that extend downwardly from said main body.

For claims 10 and 23 and 33, Kajisono discloses said motor is electrically connected to a standard electrical outlet (70).

For claims 12 and 25, Kajisono discloses said agitator comprises at least one blade (40-50 of col. 4 and Figure 7) extending from a lateral surface of said drive shaft that is rotatably driven by said motor.

For claim 14 (see claim 1 above for similar claimed features), Kajisono discloses a water agitation system for use with a water retention structure comprising:

- a motor operatively connected to a proximal end of a drive shaft;

- a base supporting said motor:

- a cover positioned over said motor, said cover being removably interconnected to said base and an inner compartment defined between a perimeter of said base and said cover, said motor being positioned within said inner compartment; and

- a blade assembly (40-50 of col. 4 and Figure 7) extending outwardly from said drive shaft, said motor operable to rotate said blade assembly in order to stir water retained within the water retention structure.

For claim 27 (see claim 1 above for similar claimed features), Kajisono discloses a water agitation system adapted to be positioned within a water retention structure configured to receive and retain water, said system comprising:

Art Unit: 3644

a main body positioned within a water retention area of the water retention structure, said main body having a base removably secured to a cover, and an inner compartment defined between said base and cover,

support members (17) supporting said main body above a bottom surface of the water retention structure; said support members comprising a plurality of legs that extend downwardly from said main body;

an agitator operatively connected to a motor positioned within said inner compartment of said main body, said agitator connected to a distal end of a drive shaft that extends outwardly from said main body, said agitator having at least one blade outwardly extending from a lateral surface of said drive shaft that is rotatably driven by said motor in order to stir water retained within the water retention structure.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 6, 19, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kajisono (US 5,336,399) in view of Official Notice.

As described above, Kajisono discloses most of the claimed invention except for a seal member interposed between the cover and the base.

However, an Official Notice is taken that the concept of using a seal member interposed between two structural members in order to prevent leakage and/or

Art Unit: 3644

infiltration thus provide a better seal therebetween is old and well known technique in the art. It would have been obvious in view of Official Notice to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Kajisono's water agitation system so as to include a seal member interposed between the cover and the base, in order to prevent leakage and/or infiltration thus provide a better seal therebetween the two members.

6. Claims 9, 22, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kajisono (US 5,336,399) in view of Wright (US 4,166,086).

As described above, Kajisono discloses most of the claimed invention except for the motor is battery powered.

Wright teaches a similar water agitation system as that of Kajisono in which Wright's system having a battery powered motor (see lines 66-68 of col. 2 and lines 1-3 of col. 3). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Kajisono's water agitation system so as to include a battery powered motor, in a similar manner as taught in Wright, for easy portability.

7. Claims 11, 24, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kajisono (US 5,336,399) in view of Earhart et al. (US 3,836,130).

As described above, Kajisono discloses most of the claimed invention except for at least one of a switch, timer and sensor for selectively activating and deactivating said motor.

Art Unit: 3644

Earhart et al. teach a similar water agitation system as that of Kajisono in which Earhart et al.'s system having at least one of a switch, timer and sensor for selectively activating and deactivating said motor (see lines 55-68 of col. 4 and lines 1-10 of col. 5). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Kajisono's water agitation system so as to include either a switch, timer or sensor, in a similar manner as taught in Earhart et al., so that the motor can be activated and/or deactivated more efficiently.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed 9/16/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

9. Applicant argues that Kajisono does not teach an agitator that stirs water retained within a water retention structure, the Examiner disagrees. As shown in lines 40-50 of col. 4 and Figure 7, Kajisono discloses that "it is preferable to provide impellers" or agitation members outwardly extending from a lateral surface of the distal end of the drive shaft (30) and the motor rotates the agitation members (note that when the impellers/agitation members rotate the water surrounding the impellers/agitation members will be stirred (see Figure 7 attached at the end of this Office Action for further explanation).

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Trinh T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-6906. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 A.M to 6:00 P.M).

Art Unit: 3644

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Teri Luu can be reached on (571) 272-7045. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Trinh T Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3644

9/26/05

Fig. 1

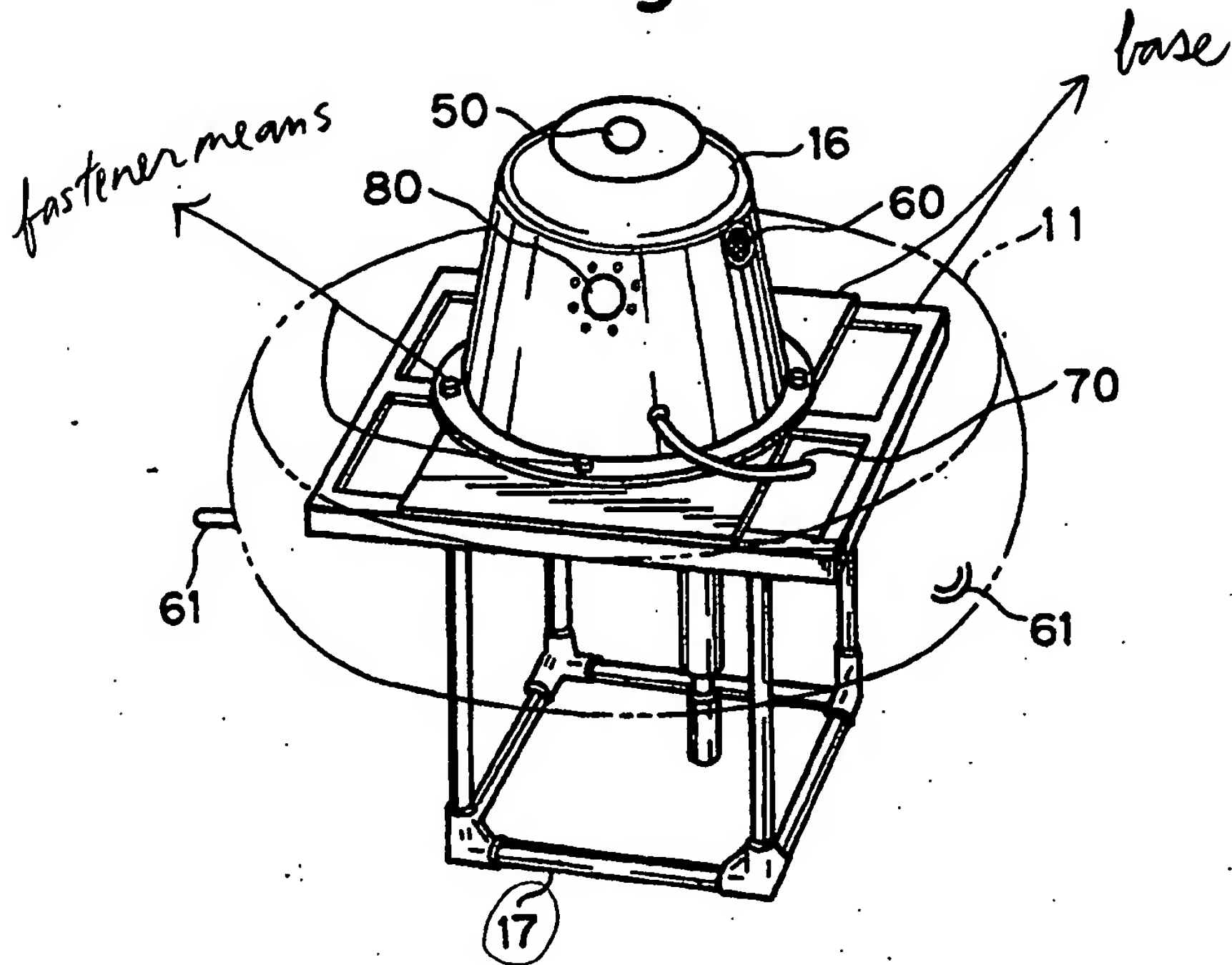


Fig. 2

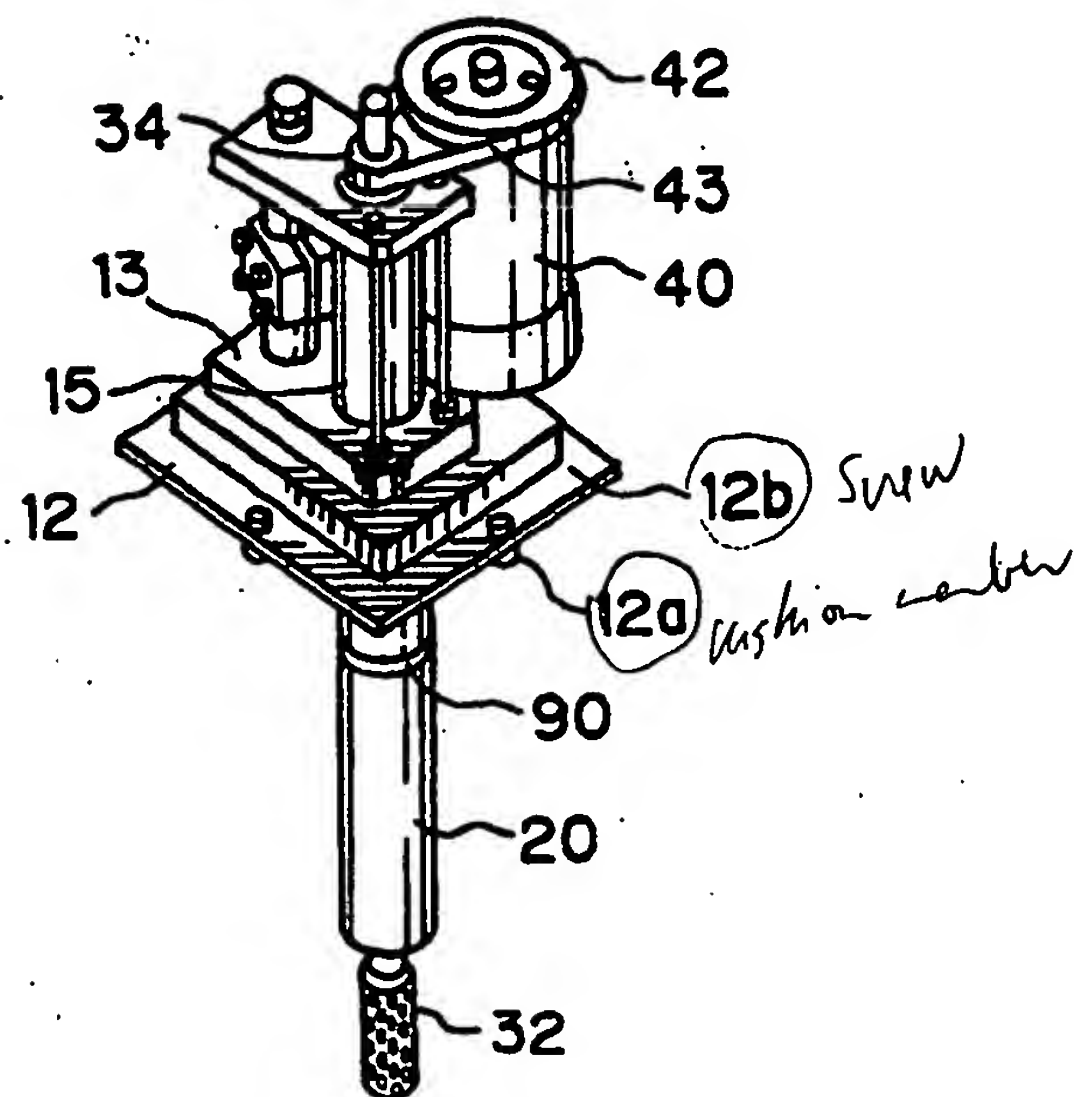


Fig. 7

